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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	DC/WH/4	plw	10 July
2	WH/4/Finance	127	149d
3	WH/4/PA-PROP	plw	
4	[REDACTED] 03	17	
5	THORPE	plw	
6	SR		
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	

Remarks:
17 to 243 Believe we should hold off on any further payments until the air clears AND until we get instructions. Right now Varona is one of our most bitter critics. I don't propose to buy him off.

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.		DATE
plw		10 July
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FORM NO. 237 104-10167-10389
2-61 86 previous editions
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1964 O-1000

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de Varona

C/WI/OPS

7 July 1961

G. Droller

Tony Varona

1. I understand that the question of our past \$900 per month subsidy to Mr. Varona has come up for discussion recently. The following might be useful to you as background information.

03
 2. Varona arrived in the United States on or about 4 May 1960 and saw Mr. [Willard Carr] on 9 May of that year. During this 9 May meeting and a meeting on the following day between [Carr], the under-03 signed and Varona, the latter alluded repeatedly to the fact that he had been promised in Havana by Mr. [Jim Koel] not only support for his 03 operational plans but also support for his personal needs. Varona reiterated that he was absolutely broke and it was essential that he have some income from some source. On 12 May 1960, Varona saw [Carr] 03 alone and again made a pitch for some personal money. On or about 20 May, the question as to whether or not we should aid Varona under the table, so to speak, was raised here in Headquarters with Mr. Zesterline. It was decided to support Varona with \$900 per month — a sum Varona had requested. Out of this \$900, Varona would give \$200 to his chauffeur/body guard, Francisco Fayas. It may be well to recall that the rationale for this decision at that time was that Mr. Varona was the key person and possible key figure of the centralized anti-Castro organization we were to form. As of 1 June 1960 and up through November of that year, Varona was paid \$900 per month by "HENDER check." From November 1960 through March 1961, Varona was paid directly by Mr. Howard Hunt in Miami in cash. April and May 1961 payments were made once again by "HENDER check" from Headquarters. No payments have been made for the months of June or July 1961 because it was felt that with Miro Cardona's assumed leadership position it would be unwise and perhaps unnecessary to continue these "private payments", which -- by the way -- were in addition to a salary Varona drew from the FRD.

3. Varona seems to be hard pressed for money at this time, especially since he is now separated from his wife who, as I understand, controls his checking account.

4. As of 3 July 1961, I was of the opinion that we should not pay Varona anything more under the table, but in view of the Special Group decision, if I am correctly informed, of encouraging our dealings with numerous Cuban groups and personalities, it might be wise to keep in touch with Varona for some time and pay him some reasonable amount as nothing cements friendship better than money.

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